

How can I protect my children from child molesters?*

Child molesters have well-developed techniques for luring victims. They seduce children with attention, affection and gifts. They often have hobbies and interests appealing to children. Generally, they are skilled at identifying vulnerable victims and are able to identify better with children than adults. Teach your children to avoid situations that put them in danger of abuse, molestation or abduction. Many parents warn their children not to talk to strangers. But more often than not, the child knows an abuser or abductor.



What should I tell my children?*

- ♦ Stay away from people who call you near their car, even if they offer to take you somewhere exciting.
- ♦ If someone tries to take you away, yell, "This person is not my father (or mother)!" and scream.
- ♦ If you get lost in a store, find another mom with children or go to the checkout counter. Don't wander around on your own.
- ♦ You don't have to keep secrets from your parents. No one can hurt your parents or pets if you tell what happened.
- ♦ No one should touch you in any of the parts covered by your bathing suit, and you should not be asked to touch anyone there.
- ♦ Don't let anyone take your picture without permission from your parents or teacher.



*Information provided by the State of California, Department of Justice, Office of the Attorney General.

Visit the Office of the Sheriff website at www.cocosheriff.org to sign up for automated e-mail notifications of sex offenders who move near you or your children in Contra Costa County.

For questions or concerns about sex offender registration, please contact one of the following:

Contra Costa County Office of the Sheriff
Region II SAFE Task Force
(925) 313-2613

Contra Costa County Office of the Sheriff
Sexual Assault Unit
(925) 313-2624

Bay Station
5555 Giant Highway,
Richmond
(510) 262-4203

Danville Police Department
510 La Gonda Way,
Danville
(925) 314-3410

Lafayette Police Department
3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd.,
Lafayette
(925) 283-3680

Oakley Police Department
3231 Main St.,
Oakley
(925) 625-6700

Contra Costa County Office of the Sheriff Sex Offender Registration & Enforcement
(925) 313-2611

Blackhawk Sub Station
1092 Eagle Nest Place,
Danville
(925) 736-1018

Delta Station
210 O'Hara Ave.,
Oakley
(925) 625-6700

Muir Station
1980 Muir Road,
Martinez
(925) 313-2520

Orinda Police Department
14 Altarinda Road,
Orinda
(925) 254-6820

Valley Station
150 Alamo Plaza #C,
Alamo
(925) 837-2902

For more information, see the California Megan's Law website at www.meganslaw.ca.gov.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT MEGAN'S LAW



IN MEMORY OF MEGAN KANKA,
THE INSPIRATION FOR MEGAN'S LAW



How many sex offenders are recorded in the Megan's Law database?

Approximately 100,000*

How many live in Contra Costa County?

1,400*

How many are registered with the Office of the Sheriff?

323*

Does the Megan's Law website show sex offenders who were arrested but not convicted of sex offenses?

No, Megan's Law only shows convicted offenders.

What types of offenders are there?

California has adopted an individual risk assessment for sex offenders with three possible categories—high risk, moderate, or low risk. Assessments occur when an offender is released from prison and/or placed in supervised release.

What is a high risk offender?

The term "high risk" refers to an offender who receives an unusually high risk assessment score. Factors such as criminal history, family history, and prevalence of violent behavior are considered in sex offender assessments. Special supervision techniques such as GPS tracking are used with high risk offenders on parole.

Is every person required to register on the Megan's Law website?

No. Under CA law, some sex offenders are designated "non-disclosure" and some are designated zip code only disclosure". The California Penal Code lists qualifications that an offender must meet to be removed from the website or listed by zip code only. Only about 25% of registered sex offenders in California are designated as "non-disclosure".



*Exact numbers vary daily.

When and how does the Office of the Sheriff notify the community about sex offenders?

Generally, notifications are done for all offenders identified as "high risk". Notifications for these types of offenders can occur in a variety of ways including:

- ♦ personal or telephone contact
- ♦ circulation of flyers or a general press release
- ♦ bulk US mail, and
- ♦ an automated e-mail service.



What is the OffenderWatch Program?

In order to maintain awareness of sex offenders living in your neighborhood, the Sheriff's Office has added a Sex Offender Registry to their website. The registry allows you to enter any local address and it will provide a list of all registered sex offenders living in unincorporated Contra Costa County within a one-mile radius of your requested address, subject to full address disclosure. The Offender-Watch Program has also added an e-mail alert system in which you can request automated e-mails whenever a sex offender registers to live within one mile of your requested address. Subscribers can register multiple times in order to request notification for other locations such as schools, playgrounds and shopping centers. To learn more about the OffenderWatch Program or to sign up for automated e-mails, visit the Sheriff's website at www.cocosherriff.org.

What if I live in an incorporated city?

The incorporated cities of Lafayette, Danville, Orinda and Oakley contract police service with the Office of the Sheriff. Citizens who live in these cities can view the sex offender registry and sign up for e-mail notifications by logging on to the OffenderWatch program at the Sheriff's Office website. The Office of the Sheriff is working with incorporated cities of Contra Costa County to compile a more complete database so that every family living in the county can receive this valuable service.

If the address you request is within an incorporated city that is not currently participating in the Sheriff's Office OffenderWatch program, you will not be able to receive e-mails when a sex offender moves within one mile of your requested address.

Is an offender's employer notified?

When it is determined to be necessary, the Office of the Sheriff will provide notices to employers in order to ensure public safety as well as the safety of other employees. Although it is not commonly considered a necessity, circumstances could exist that compel Sheriff's deputies or detectives to notify an employer.

Can sex offenders volunteer or work with children?

It is a misdemeanor crime for sex registrants who have been convicted of a crime with a minor under 16 years old to volunteer or be employed in a setting in which they:

- ♦ work directly or in an unaccompanied setting with minor children on more than an occasional basis
- ♦ have supervisory power over minor children



Can sex offenders live near a park or school?

Yes, unless they are currently on parole or probation, and the terms of their release from custody prohibit them from living near such places.

What if I recognize someone on the Megan's Law database?

If you are concerned about or have witnessed a suspicious activity by an offender, notify the Office of the Sheriff Sex/Arson Registration Unit at (925) 313-2611. After hours, notification can be made through Sheriff's Dispatch at (925) 646-2441.

What can I do with the information I receive about a sex offender through Megan's Law?

You may use the information to protect yourself and your family from sex offenders. The information may not be used to intimidate, harass, or take unlawful action against any such offender.